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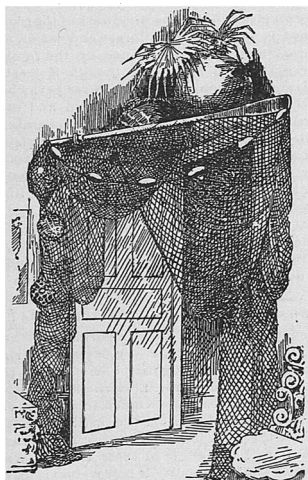
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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

over one or two carefully applied coats of paint will give a chair almost the appearance of having been enamelled. Willow chairs look well when simply stained, as the soft texture of the wood admirably adapts it to receive such a finish; but rattan will not take a stain upon its glossy surface and must, therefore, be painted or enamelled or finished in the sixteenth-century style.

WALL DECORATION

DOWN by the sea it has been for a long time quite the mode to give a nautical character to the furnishings of summer cottages; and so in love have people fallen with their fish-net draperies that the rage for them has spread inland and carried memories of the sea to mountain heights, and on dreary winter days in the city helped imagination to sniff the sea breezes of summer. A delightful arrangement of a fish-net *portiere* is shown below, which allows the door to open inward; it is especially adapted to a door near a corner. A triangular shelf is



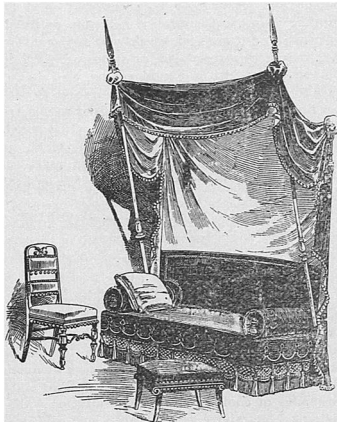
DOOR DECORATED WITH FISH-NET PORTIERES.

fastened above the door, and an oar placed along the front edge is used as a rod from which to hang the net. Fishing tackle or rope can be used to secure the drapery, and it may be ornamented with star-fish, sea-weed, or other mementos of the sea-shore. So effective have the dados of fish-nets proved, that importers of Oriental fabrics are showing strong netting about half a yard wide in all metallic colors, which they combine effectively with other fabrics in the East Indian, Turkish and Japanese dens and alcoves that they fit up.

ARTISTIC FITMENTS

THE fashion of furniture fitments seems now to be continually increasing in popularity. The many unquestionable advantages, both of an economical as well as of a hygienic character, which accrue from having one's furniture fitted to the walls, are gradually beginning to dawn upon the general public mind, and it is not un-

reasonable to hope that before many years have passed away it will be quite orthodox for middle-class folk to despise the present nomadic type of furnishing, in favor of the more abiding



A CANOPIED DIVAN.

and home-like fitments. The very character of fitted furniture seem to convey an air of established homeliness which is destined to continue for many years, whilst the old-fashioned suites of so many pieces, with their decorative accessories always suggest the unwelcome possibility of leaving an old familiar house which has been endeared to us by all the cherished associations of home-life.

Fitted furniture at times, is very simple, and sometimes it is of an elaborate character. As a rule, the best and most artistic work is the least complicated and "fussy." We show a very dainty and convenient draped divan that is in the highest sense a "fitment." There are no "broken up" recesses, with shaped arches and spindles, no entangled fretwork, and no useless little open pigeon-holes to serve as so many dust traps. Everything is smooth, compact and tasteful, giving that expression of repose, that is so desirable in modern furnishings.

CHIPPENDALE added to his accurate knowledge of classic art a fertility of invention in adapting its lines to the needs of his own generation in house furnishing goods, that his productions exercise a peculiar fascination on both the connoisseur and the artistic householder.

Witness his beautiful hanging book-cases, as articles made when such knick-knacks were rare and generally clumsy. The use in these of his fretwork, with delicate mouldings and a little leafage, show that Chippendale could devote his attention to small, as well as to large and costly productions.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Important Notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration. As our space is necessarily limited, correspondents who do not receive a reply in this department will be replied to by mail by the Editor.

The Decoration of Badly Proportioned Rooms.

WATERTOWN, MASS.

EDITOR THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

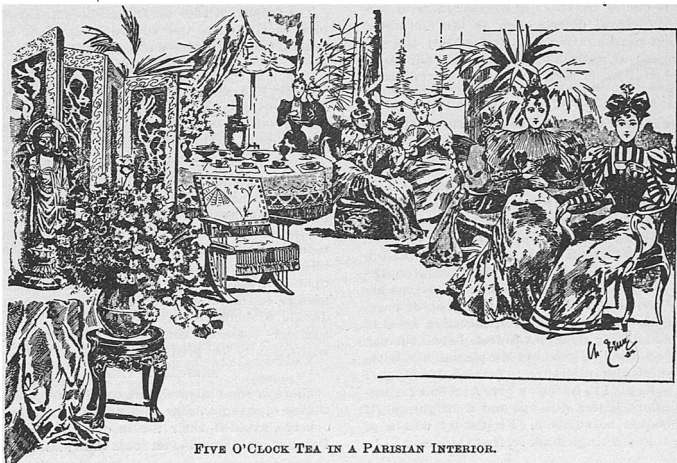
DEAR SIR:—We are building a house, of the \$5,000 variety, whose eaves come down so low as to make the ceiling of the second story, on southerly side of the house, slant two-and-a-half feet at top of side walls. Would it be necessary to use cartridge paper alone, as the main ceilings upstairs are only eight feet high? If you can give any ideas concerning their furnishing, as chambers, I shall be glad.

Another room, which I fear will be a source of perplexity to me, is a long, narrow chamber, a sketch of which I enclose.

MRS. WM. G. SNOW.

Answer. This appears to be a case of illy-proportioned rooms. One side of a room is shaved off by the roof cutting away the top portion of the side wall, and the oblong apartment, of which a diagram is sent, is very much unlike Paddy's celebrated blanket, which was "as broad as it was narrow." In this instance the blanket is as narrow as it is long.

Let us first see what can be done with the oblong room. To make it appear wider, we must make it appear lower, even though it is not very high now, being but eight feet. To do this we must increase the plain ceiling, adopting a horizontal system of mural decoration, with a



FIVE O'CLOCK TEA IN A PARISIAN INTERIOR.